



REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
April 13, 2009

Deputy Mayor Gregory Haddad called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Blair, Clouette, Duffy, Haddad, Koehn, Nesbitt, Paterson, Paulhus,
Excused: Schaefer

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2009 Special meeting. Mr. Nesbitt requested a copy of the power point presentation offered by Andy Hill of Walker Parking be added to the minutes. Motion passed with all in favor except Mayor Paterson who abstained. Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2009 Regular meeting as presented. Motion passed with all in favor except Mayor Paterson who abstained. Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Nesbitt seconded to approve the minute of the March 26, 2009 Special meeting as presented. Motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Koehn and Mayor Paterson who abstained. Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the minutes of the March 30, 2009 Special meeting. Motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Koehn and Mayor Paterson who abstained. Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Nesbitt seconded to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2009 Special meeting. Motion passed with all in favor except Mayor Paterson and Ms. Koehn who abstained.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Fiscal Year 2009-10 Budget

Cynara Stites, Hanks Hill Road, and Will Bigl, 17 Pond Hill Road, representing other seniors in Town requested the Town Council remove from the budget the proposed cutback of the Senior Services Social Worker position from 35 hours a week to 20 hours a week. They presented a petition signed by 117 Mansfield seniors. Statement submitted.

Nancy Tomastik, 203 Maple Road, noting the current economic recession-depression, urged the Council to adopt a budget with a substantial tax decrease. Statement submitted.

William Jordan, 243 South Eagleville Road and a 33 year veteran of the Town's volunteer Firefighter/EMT force and a 27 year part time paid employee of the

Town, urged the Council to create a budget that will not reduce staffing in the stations. Statement submitted.

Glenn Dube, 83 Jonathan Lane and a 15-year fire service veteran and a career firefighter for the Town of Southington, expressed his strong opposition to the proposed reduction of on duty fire protection from 4 firefighters to 3. Statement submitted.

Jay Rueckl, 128 South Eagleville Road, asked the Council to better publicize opportunities in Town for residents on low or fixed incomes. He also spoke in support of long-range, forward- looking policies that have worked for the Town for many years. Mr. Rueckl sees the Storrs Center project as one of these endeavors. Statement submitted.

Mike Sikoski, Wildwood Road, asked the Council to request independent objective studies of the questions asked by the public, not reports from department heads. Mr. Sikoski questioned the facts regarding vehicle usage in Town and asked why the Town spends more than any other local community on the fire department.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, stated that savings from union negotiations from both the Town and the Board of Education could net over \$500,000 in savings this year. Mr. Hossack asked that the ambulance service be privatized. Statement submitted.

Peter Millman, Dog Lane, thanked the Council for their support of the Storrs Center stating that because of our dependence on state revenue it is risky for the Town not to support economic development.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, urged the purchase of the equipment required to televise the Council meetings and offered some suggested way to cut the budget. Statement submitted.

Sean Cox, Wormwood Hill Road, spoke against the staffing reductions to the Fire Department noting that fire trucks do not fight fires firefighters do.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Mayor Paterson left at 8:45 p.m.

William Jordan, 243 South Eagleville Road, took issue with a previous speakers comment that the Fire Department budget totaled 2.3 million. He noted that 2.3 million dollars is the budget for all Public Safety Departments of the Town.

Mike Sikoski, Wildwood Road, stated that he found it difficult to find all the funds in the budget. He also asked for a definition of an appropriation with regards to the open space fund.

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, asked the Council to consider all information when it comes to decisions about the parking garages. Mr. Freudmann expressed his concern regarding the payment of the debt service on the second

garage.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, continued her discussion of the Town Manager's ICMA pension plan. Statement submitted.

V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- Report submitted

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- 2. Community/Campus Relations

Town Manager Matt Hart reported the Community Quality of Life Committee met recently and proposed amendments to the Housing Code, discussed the ordinance on Special Police Services, and completed their Strategic Planning referral. The Committee decided to use one of the action items from the Strategic Plan as a basis for future work.

3. Community Water and Wastewater Issues

Councilor Nesbit, Chair of the Four Corners Sewer Advisory Committee, updated the Council on the Committee's progress. The Committee is in the process of revising the fiscal analysis/impact of the project, Town staff has begun the surveying process for the project, and a second informational meeting for the general public has been tentatively scheduled for June 6, 2009.

4. Preliminary Regionalization Study Committee

Mayor Paterson and Town Manager Matt Hart have agreed to represent the Council at the meetings of the Preliminary Regionalization Study Committee. Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded effective April 13, 2009 that the Mayor and Town Manager be appointed the Town Council's representatives to the ad hoc committee on educational regionalization.

Ms. Koehn added by way of a friendly amendment the following statement, ... as well as any other Town Council members who wish to serve from time to time.

Motion as amended passed unanimously.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

5. Proclamation – Week of the Young Child

Mr. Clouette moved and Ms. Koehn seconded, effective April 13, 2009, to authorize Deputy Mayor Gregory Haddad to issue the attached Proclamation in Honor of the Week of the Young Child. (Proclamation submitted)
Motion passed unanimously.

6. Historic Documents Preservation Grant

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to approve the following resolution:

Resolved: That Matthew W. Hart, Mansfield Town Manager, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this municipality a contract with the Connecticut State Library for a Historic Documents Preservation Grant.

Motion passed unanimously.

7. Resolution on Open and Transparent Government

Ms. Koehn moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the resolution expressing Mansfield's commitment to open and transparent government dated April 13, 2009.

Resolution Affirming Commitment to Open and Transparent Government

April 13, 2009

A Resolution AFFIRMING COMMITMENT TO OPEN AND TRANSPARENT GOVERNMENT:

WHEREAS, the Mansfield Town Council has the authority to adopt resolutions and ordinances that pertain to the government and affairs of the Town;

WHEREAS, transparent is defined as "see through;" therefore, open and transparent government means that citizens are able to "see through" the workings of government;

WHEREAS, the Town of Mansfield has a long history of open government and the Town Council wishes to affirm its commitment to the principle of transparent and open government;

WHEREAS, the Town of Mansfield maintains an official website and government access television channel to enhance the access and delivery of government services and information to benefit citizens, business and employees;

WHEREAS, the website and government access television provide accessible forums in which to communicate information regarding Town government, including information concerning programs and services, budgeting, spending and policy;

WHEREAS, the Town Council desires to provide policy guidance, financial and other support to ensure the further development of the Town website, government access television channel and other means to promote open and transparent government;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mansfield Town Council to refer the task of developing and recommending policy to promote and enhance open and transparent government, while maintaining a balance between open records and security, to the Personnel Committee with a goal for the Committee to present its

recommendations to the Town Council by July 2009.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mansfield Town Council to refer the task of developing and recommending policy to promote the establishment of a long-term, organization-wide strategy to enhance website access, organization and information to fulfill citizen and staff information needs, to the Communications Committee with a goal for the Committee to present its recommendations to the Town Council by October 2009.

Motion passed unanimously.

Deputy Mayor Haddad thanked Ms. Koehn and Town Manager Matt Hart for their work on this issue.

8. Amendment to Mansfield Housing Code, Private Sewage Disposal System Maintenance

Mr. Clouette moved and Ms. Duffy seconded to schedule a public hearing for 7:30 PM at the Town Council's regular meeting on April 27, 2009, to solicit public comment regarding the proposed amendment to Section 506.3, Private Sewage Disposal System Maintenance, of the Mansfield Housing Code.

Motion passed unanimously.

9. Ordinance for Obtaining Goods and Services

Noting that the Committee had reviewed the ordinance, Mr. Clouette, on behalf of the Finance Committee, offered the following motion:

Move to schedule a public hearing for 7:30 PM at the Town Council's regular meeting on May 11, 2009, to solicit public comment regarding An Ordinance for Obtaining Goods and Services.

Both Councilors Nesbitt and Koehn have offered additional suggestions. Mr. Nesbitt's comments are included in the current packet and Ms. Koehn will disseminate her comments to members.

In order to allow those comments to be considered by other Council members, Ms. Blair moved and Mr. Nesbitt seconded to table the motion.

Motion to table passed unanimously.

VIII. DÉPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

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No comments

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

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Mr. Clouette reported that the Finance Committee met and discussed the upcoming public information sessions on the budget and the hiring of an auditor for the current fiscal year.

Ms. Koehn requested an explanation of the public comment process open to a Council member who might vote against budget.

The Council agreed to discuss the process both for the Town Council Information sessions and the Town Meeting.

Ms. Duffy offered the following recommendations as reappointments to the Recreation Advisory Committee:
Sheldon Dyer and Frank Musiek

Motion to approve passed unanimously.

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

- No reports

XI. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

10. Chronicle "Bikeway project gets fed funds" – 03/26/09

11. Chronicle "Commentary: Downtown planning has been steady..." – 03/27/09

12. Chronicle "Council discusses possible layoffs" – 03/27/09

13. Chronicle "Editorial: Sewer fees should be shared fairly" – 04/02/09

14. Chronicle "Editorial: We offer these threads, needles" – 03/23/09

15. Chronicle "Four corners becomes a 'ghost town'" – 03/31/09

16. Chronicle "Landlords peeved at ordinance" – 03/24/09

17. Chronicle "Letters to the Editor" – 03/23/09

18. Chronicle "Letters to the Editor" – 03/26/09

19. Chronicle "Letters to the Editor" – 04/01/09

20. Chronicle "Mansfield budget comes in smaller" – 03/24/09

21. Chronicle "Mansfield ready to cope with revenue cuts" – 04/06/09

22. Chronicle "Mansfield schools could get safer" – 03/19/09

23. Chronicle "Mansfield still pushing for green buildings" – 03/31/09

24. Chronicle "Mansfield won't recycle batteries" – 04/01/09

25. Chronicle "Obama dollars to aid local projects" – 03/12/09

26. Chronicle "Officials prepare to face a flu pandemic" – 04/01/09

27. Chronicle "Paper and plastic" – 03/28/09

28. Communications Advisory Committee re: Town ordinance – The Town Manager will ask CCM for information regarding the experiences of other towns who have enacted or looked at enacting such an ordinance.

29. Environmental Impact Evaluation, University of Connecticut (excerpts)

30. K. Grunwald re: Assistive Hearing Technology

31. G. Haddad/M. Hart re: Proposed FY 2009/10 Budget

32. H. Hand re: Library budget

33. M. Hart re: Testimony in opposition to Governor's Bill No. 6363

34. Hartford Courant "Don't undercut smart growth" – 03/01/09

35. Hartford Courant "Kathy John's, a longtime UConn favorite..." – 03/28/09

- 36. Hartford Courant "Mass transit in State to get boost from Federal..." – 03/24/09
- 37. Hartford Courant "Transit funds to benefit rail commuters,..." – 03/23/09
- 38. Mansfield Today "And the award goes to..." – 04/06/09
- 39. Mansfield Today "How to have a green – and safe – yard" – 03/26/09
- 40. Mansfield Today "Joshua's Trust recognized for protecting..." – 04/07/09
- 41. Mansfield Today "Keep the power on" – 04/07/09
- 42. Mansfield Today "Let the sun save you some money" – 04/05/09
- 43. Mansfield Today "Mansfield Middle School just misses apex..." – 04/01/09
- 44. Mansfield Today "Mansfield prison fence topped with razor wire" – 03/25/09
- 45. Mansfield Today "Obama bill includes Storrs Center funds" – 03/11/09
- 46. Mansfield Today "Recess does a body good..." – 03/29/09
- 47. Nation's Cities Weekly "The sustainable cities imperative" – 03/16/09

Ms. Koehn requested petitions, request and communications be grouped by type of correspondence.

XII. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, asked if the Town would incur an implied commitment or liability by approving planning documents for Storrs Center.

XIII. FUTURE AGENDAS

Ms. Koehn requested information for the next budget session comparing the cost of single stream recycling to our current process.

In response to some concerns regarding advisory groups and staff articulating the Town's position on issues, the Town Manager suggested the Council review the policy that explains what must come before the Council for approval.

Mr. Nesbitt suggested adding regionalization to a future agenda item, He suggested an ad hoc committee to address the issues. Ms. Koehn suggested looking at the Town's ability to partner with other towns outside of WINCOG.

Mr. Nesbitt also suggested that Council discuss the inclusion of a Town project in the WINCOG consultant's report.

Mr. Clouette moved that the Council recess the meeting and go into Executive Session to discuss Strategy or Negotiations with Respect to Collective Bargaining.

Seconded by Mr. Paulhus, the motion passed unanimously.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

CGS§1-220(2) – Strategy or Negotiations with Respect to Collective Bargaining

Present: Blair, Clouette, Duffy, Haddad, Koehn, Nesbitt, Paulhus

Also Present: Town Manager Matt Hart, Fire Chief Dave Dagon

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The Council reconvened in open session. Mr. Nesbitt moved and Ms. Duffy seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

Gregory Haddad, Deputy Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk